(c) whether Government have made any study of growth-rate of annual production of last decades at the time of setting up a target for future; and

(d) if so, annual growth-rates of last five decades, decade-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The Ninth Five Year Plan adopted by the National Development Council in it's meeting held on 19th February, 1999 has adopted targetted increase in value of agricultural output (excluding forestry) at the rate of 4.5 per cent per annum during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002).

(c) Past growth in agricultural production is one of the variables that is studied at the time of setting the target growth rate in the Five Year Plan.

(d) In the Ninth Five Year Plan document, the target of 4.5 per cent per annum increase in the value of agricultural output translates to 3.9 per cent annual rate of growth in Gross Value addition in agriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

The decadal growth rates of Gross Value Added in the last five decades are given below:—

Period	Growth rate (% per annum)
1950s	3.07
1960s	1.80
1970s	2.07
1980s	3.33
1990s (upto 1996-97)	3.14

Loss of Life and property in Kandla

*547. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat requested that an inquiry commission should be set up for an in-depth study of huge loss of life

and property due to cyclone in Kandla and other districts of Gujarat;

(b) whether the commission has been appointed and if so, whether it has submitted its report;

(c) if so, details of the action taken report; and

(d) if not, the time by which it would submit report?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) No Commission was appointed, however, subsequent to the cyclone in Gujarat in June, 1998, a High Level Fact Finding Team was constituted to find out as to how in the light of the sequence of events high loss of life had taken place, particularly in the Kandla area, and to draw lessons for better preparedness, coordination etc. for coping with such natural disasters in future. The Team had submitted its report and made several recommendations pertaining to the Government of Gujarat, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Surface Transport and other Departments/agencies. The concerned Departments/agencies have taken action on the recommendations relating to them.

Malpractices in Prices of LPG

*548. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest price of LPG domestic connections with single and double cylinders;

(b) whether it is justified that most of the agents of LPG domestic. Domestic suppliers in Assam have charged the customers for new connections of Rs. 3000 or more; and

(c) if not, how Government will prevent such malpractices by the agents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Public Sector Oil Companies issue domestic LPG connections against the payment of security deposit as indicated below in the country except North-Eastern region:-

FOR SINGLE CYLINDER CONNECTION

Refundable security deosit for one Cylinder —Rs. 900